

**AN ANALYSIS OF WORD FORMATION OF SLANG WORDS IN  
BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH'S SELECTED SONGS LYRICS**

**PAPER**

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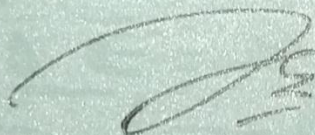
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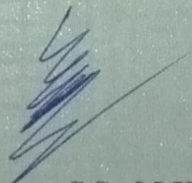


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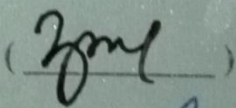
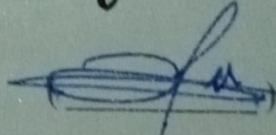
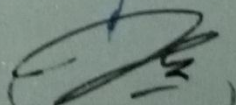
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## **ABSTRACT**

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Slang is the most informal form of communication in certain communities. Slang comes in different kind of varieties based on the process it form. The common user of slang is rappers, one of them is Benjamin Zephaniah. This study aims to find out the types of slang formation processes and the most common slang processes in Benjamin Zephaniah's song lyrics. There are six types of slang based on the word formation process that exist in Benjamin's selected song lyrics. Those are multiple processes that appear 20 times, coinage for 23 times, blending for 6 times, clipping for 6 times, back formation for 3 times, and blending for 2 times. The most common slang is coinage and multiple process. The goal of Benjamin using slang in his works is to show his identity as African-born and to show his hate against racism.

**Key Words:** Slang, Word Formation, Language Varieties

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This is a special gift, I dedicated to my parents, my dad Ahmad U. S. and my mom Jasmaniar, who has to give me attention, care, endless love, support and thanks for praying at the midnight, I love you so much. To my sister and brothers, Mala Juwita, Fran Wahyu Ilahi, and Rian Robsen, thanks for your praying, support, and cheer me up..

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The writer

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Research Problem

Language plays a significant function in human life. Without language, people would not have the option to express their thoughts. Language is a communication system that is expected to help to do human activities easier in society. Individuals, at any rate, use one language to pass on and express their thoughts and feeling through language to communicate with others. Yule (2014) clarifies that language is a set of symbols being utilized mainly for communication. The symbol is either spoken or written. Language is a part of human life. In written structure, it is a tool to pass on information starting with one age than to the next, while in spoken structure its methods are more direct and more simple. Thus, language and society are two indivisible substances.

From one perspective, language serves individuals to satisfy the needs of expressing their thoughts, which shape the language in the everyday situation context. The use of language and language variety influences other languages in unique ways. The utilization of language inside the communities incorporates language varieties. It can be shaped by time, social, event, or individual factors. Soeparno (2003) said that language varieties consist of chronological variation, geographical variation, social variations, functional variations, style variation, cultural variation, and individual variation. Moreover, language variety is partitioned into a few structures and one of them is slang.

Slang is used by a wide range of individuals who share circumstances or interests. It is regularly used in casual circumstances. According to Fromkin and Rodman (2003), slang is a result of the development of making new words and used to make the language simpler and easier to be uttered in everyday situations. Slang language is an informal form of language that would someday vanish even though it is widely used by people. But, some slang words stay in communities and become coinage, and even some other words become formal words by the time it is used. According to Hatch and Brown (1995) coinage is a word that is needed but there is no appropriate or available word to use. So, creating a new one is a solution. There is no formal shape in slang because it is a subclass of the language.

There are many slang words used in rap songs, one of them is song and poem lyrics by Benjamin Zephaniah. Dr. Benjamin Obadiah Iqbal Zephaniah was born and raised in Birmingham, England. Born on 15 April 1958, now he is 59 years old and still writing other literary works. He already wrote so many books and also released some songs, some of them already translated into other languages. His writing movement was usually about the 'Rastafarian Movement' a movement about the power of black people from Jamaica; but also British imperialism.

Benjamin remains one of the most controversial poets and singers in the world, especially in Great Britain. He is known for his movement against the Government of the UK and also against racism. Yet, Benjamin still manages to resist all critics and honored the doctorate from the University of Birmingham. He

was also listed as the number 48 from the 50 greatest postwar writers. He already won some awards such as BBC Young Playwright's Award. He has also been awarded by the University of North London in 1998, the University of Central England in 1999, the Staffordshire University in 2001, London South Bank University in 2003, University of Exeter, and the University of Westminster in 2006.

This study interests to conduct the study in Benjamin's works because of his capability as a writer shown by his achievements, his characteristics that stood against racism, and his famous. This study also wants to provide a study about Benjamin's works because there are very few studies done about Benjamin's works in the linguistics field of study. Based on the explanation the writer uses these studies below as the main resource to conduct the study about Benjamins' songs.

Up until this point, there are many studies about slang, but there is no study in Linguistics terms such as slang in Benjamin Zephaniah's works. The main slang study is directed by Wulandari (2012) in her research entitled *The Sorts of Slang Words In The lyrics of "Jigsaw" Collection By Lady Sovereign*. She has researched song lyrics by Lady Sovereign. Her research aims to identify the types of slang and to analyze the function of the slang. She also analyzed the meaning of the slang found in the song lyrics. In this research. She used the descriptive method and analyze the data from song lyrics of Lady Sovereign collection. This study uses the same method as the study that the writer does, but different in the object.

Second, Gemilasari (2013) in her research entitled *An Analysis of Word Formation of Slang Words Found in Short Stories in Teenager Magazines Aneka Yess*. She researched how slang words form in short stories on *Aneka Yess* magazine. She analyzes and describes the types of slang words formation in 2002-2012 editions. Then, she made the description of the types of word formation of slang that is often used every year in the magazine. After that, she described the slang words, which were changing at that time. Based on the research, she found 10 types of word formations. Those are acronyms, abbreviation, blending, clipping, coinage, compounding, multiple processes, borrowing, reduplication, and affixation. Based on the entire slang words, coinage is the type of word formation that is mostly found in every magazine edition. Differently, the object of Gemilasari is the magazine. this study aims to found the word formation in songs by Benjamin.

After that, Marzita (2013) entitled *An Analysis of Word Formation Process of English Slang in Teenager Movie Scripts*. Same as Gemilasari's research, but different in the object. Based on the result, Marzita found some formation processes of slang words in the two movies; those are coinage, internal change, clipping, affixation, derivation, compounding, blending, and acronym.

Based on the previous studies above, similar to Gemilasari, this paper analyzes slang words based on the word formation processes. The difference between Gemilasari's studies and this paper is in the source of data, Gemilasari took a Magazine as her data source. Meanwhile, the writer took data from song lyrics. This study is similar to Wulandari's research by taking songs lyric as the

data and also the study uses descriptive method to analyze the data. The difference is the object of the data while Wulandari uses the Lady Sovereign collection, meanwhile this research use Benjamin Zephaniah collection.

This study aims to analyze the slang because of the wide varieties of slang that can appear in speaking or in writing. Especially in songs, slang appearance is not common because some singers or songwriter use their slang or words. Yule (2006) said that slang is the most informal form of communication in certain communities. This special community in this study is the songs perform by Benjamin.

Another study by Puti (2019) entitled Word Formation of Slang Word in Sing Albums Created by Indonesian Rapper, Young Lex. Her study aims to identify the types of word formation processes and to know the common word formation process in the lyrics. The study used a descriptive qualitative method. The study concluded that there are blending, clipping, compounding, coinage, borrowing, and acronym. The most common word formation process that appears is borrowing. This study is different in the object that uses as the study data.

To sum up, the study is focused on discussing slang especially slang in song lyrics. The study aims to give more sources about word formation of slang. Also, this study is conducted to give a praise to Benjamin Zephaniah because of very few studies in his works. The data source of this analysis is selected song lyrics by Benjamin Zephaniah. The researcher chooses the six most popular and controversial songs.

This study uses Morphology as the field of study to find out the slang in Benjamin's works. The slang that appears in Benjamin's song lyrics would be classified based on the word formation process. The slang is then analyzed with a tree diagram to deform and to show the word formation process.

## **1.2 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the background of the study above the problems of this study are formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of slang words formation in Benjamin Zephaniah's song lyrics?
2. What is the most common word formation process in Benjamin Zephaniah's song lyrics?

## **1.3 Purposes of the Study**

The following purpose of the study is developed from the formulation of the problem above:

1. To find out the types of slang formation processes in Benjamin Zephaniah's song lyrics.
2. To find out the most common word formation process in Benjamin Zephaniah's song lyrics.

#### **1.4 Significances of the Study**

The significant of the study is to give contribution to slang analysis and to increase the understanding of slang and its meaning. This study wants to give more expand in morphological forms in slang words. This study also tries to conduct a study on an artist that has never been analyzed by another linguist. Besides that, this study tries to understand the kind of slang language that use in the song lyrics by Benjamin Zephaniah. This study hopefully has benefits for all researchers and students, especially English Department students. Hopefully, this also can help students to apply their knowledge and comprehend slang language in the appropriate daily conversation, especially in informal situations.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

Based on the previous chapter the writer conclude that there are six types of types those processes are Multiple process, coinage, compounding, blending, clipping, back formation. Multiple process appear 20 times, coinage for 23 times, blending for 6 times, clipping for 6 times, back formation for 3 times, and blending for 2 times. This study agreed with other studies that slangs have a very important role in language to make communication between singer to listener more intents and also to attract people especially teenager to use the slangs.

The most common word formation process that appears in Benjamin Zephaniah's selected songs are Coinage and Multiprocess. First coinage appears as the most common slang process, the coinage that appears some are new and some others are old coinage that still popular. Second, the most common is multiple process, the multiple process usually appears as the ultimate explanation to who is he and how he reacts against racism. The use of coinage and multiprocess that associate to African or black-skinned person is to show his personality and to show his will against racism.

Furthermore, other slang processes also appear such as compounding, blending, clipping, and back formation. This slang process also the slang that used by African American that lived in the ghetto or suburb. The slang used by

Benjamin is mostly the slang that only uses by a black person and their community and widely know by other persons so the songs are more understandable and more attractive to the young person.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

The writer suggests that there will be more other researchers or linguists that interest to conduct studies about slang and find more language phenomena to reveal other new coinage and slangs in other Benjamin Zephaniah songs or other objects that are found interesting by other researchers. The researcher also hopes that this paper can become a reference to other researchers to conduct studies on slang and Benjamin Zephaniah.

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